FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS DASP?

The Drexel Autism Support Program (DASP) is a student-centered program that provides support for current Drexel students in the areas of academics, social competency, self-advocacy, interpersonal skills, independent living, and social integration. The goal is to ensure that DASP participants take advantage of University life and develop the academic and social skills needed to pursue and sustain career opportunities.

DASP is one of several programs in the Center for Learning and Academic Success Services (CLASS) in Student Life and frequently utilizes academic coaches in CLASS. DASP staff may assist students with self-advocating, course registration, securing tutoring, time management, organization, and communicating successfully with instructors. DASP staff may help students learn tools to manage dorm life, interact with peers, and take advantage of the numerous opportunities on campus and in the community.

DASP staff works closely with University faculty and various administrative offices. In addition, they communicate, as needed, with parents who have the proper releases regarding student progress and any concerns that may arise. Students may receive one to ten hours of direct contact each week with program staff — including academic coaches, mentors, and the director — depending on each individual student’s needs.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DISABILITY RESOURCES AND DASP?

Disability Resources provides reasonable accommodations to students, faculty and staff with disabilities to give them equal access, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

DASP provides support in other areas where a student might have challenges, such as social skills, executive function, communicating with others on campus (such as advisors and faculty), and time management.

WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT WOULD BENEFIT FROM DASP?
All matriculated Drexel University students who face challenges typical of those with a diagnosis of high-functioning autism, Asperger's Syndrome, PDD–NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder–Not Otherwise Specified), or non-verbal learning disability are best supported by DASP. Students do not need a formal diagnosis to receive support from DASP.

In order to be successful at Drexel and in DASP, students must be capable of doing college-level work, and they must be able to live semi-independently away from home in a dorm if they are not a commuter or online student.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Interested students must be admitted through the normal admissions process to Drexel University before applying to DASP. Students must first confirm their admission to Drexel University, then complete and submit the DASP program application with their letter acknowledging their attendance to Drexel University. It’s encouraged to submit this prior to May 15. In addition, applicants must be interviewed by the program’s director. While not required, it is highly recommended that a student visit Drexel University’s Office of Equality and Diversity – Disability Resources prior to applying to DASP.

ARE THERE OTHER AUTISM PROGRAMS AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY THAT AREN'T FOR MATRICULATED STUDENTS?

Yes, for more information on other programs for students who aren't entering Drexel through the normal admissions process, please visit A.J. Drexel Autism Institute's Transition Pathways.

WHAT IS THE COST?

DASP is a free support service provided by Student Life as part of the Center for Learning and Academic Success Services (CLASS). Just as the other services in CLASS are offered to students at no cost, DASP is a free service available for all Drexel University students who face challenges typical of those with a diagnosis of high functioning autism, Asperger's Syndrome, PDD-NOS, or non-verbal learning disability.